The inauguration of SWASS (Social Workers Association for Staff & Students) was held on 4th August, 2014. The Chief Guest was Dr.V. Suresh, National General Secretary, PUCL. Mr. Pradeep, Human Right Activists, was the Guest of Honour. The Head of the Department Dr.Gladston, The Presidents Fr.Louis Arockiaraj (Shift-I) Prof. Bala Muthu Murugan (Shift-II), Office Bearers, all the Staff and students were all present for the inauguration. The inauguration was initiated with a prayer song by the students and flower offering ceremony.

The Guest of Honor, Mr.Pradeep shared his experiences of working with tribal people for the past 35 years. Being trained from Tata Institute he started his career as
a teaching faculty in the same Institution. However his teaching job did not satisfy his thirst, so he left the job to work with tribal people.

Mr. Pradeep shared about the impact of the communist movement on the society. He spoke about the essentiality of sharing and caring -which would demolish $\frac{3}{4}$ of problems in the society. Finally he encouraged the students to have the same spirit, conviction, consistency and care to the society.

The chief guest Mr. Suresh encouraged the office bearers to aspire to reach great heights with new ideas of change. He shared his experiences of work with Mr. Pradeep. He raised his concern over discrimination in Social Work in the name of specialization and Social Work Institutions in India being factories that produce robotic social workers. He touched upon the concept of Human rights and the differences in situation between India and the Western World. He threw light on 'How Rich become Richer and Poor become Poorer'- culminating the cause to the defective system in place. A lot of questions were put forth on violence to make the audience think about who is responsible for this and he emphasized that each citizen is responsible for all the violence that is happening around us. Dr. Suresh challenged he students with lots of reflective questions that made them to realize that they too are responsible for all the problems in society. He gave an earnest call to all social work students to take up the challenge of fighting injustice, to stand up for human rights and create History by making changes in the lives of people.

Fr.Louis Arockiaraj (Shift-I) & Prof.Bala Muthu Murugan (Shift-II) introduced the Office Bearers of SWASS for the Academic Year 2014-2015. The Oath taking of all the members and Office Bearers of the association was led by The Guest of Honour Mr. Pradeep which made the members to realize their duty and responsibility to the mankind. The inauguration came to an end with the vote of thanks.

RINALD EDWARD A.
EDUCATION AWARENESS CAMP

Introduction:

Social work trainees specializing in Community Development were placed for field work training at ORCHID CHEMICALS & PHARMACEUTICAL, Alathur. As part of field work exposure the trainees conducted a Community Organization (CO) program for the children of IdaiyanKuppam. The place IdayanKuppam consists all ST (Irulas) Community people. The community program was to create awareness on “The impact of education”. The theme for (CO) program was “Education awareness camp” and the main objective was to create awareness on the impact of education.
The program had major 4 parts.

1. **TREE PLANTING**

To remark on the occasion and to create awareness on planting trees a herbal plant was planted by Mr. Deepan Bharathi and Prof. John JeyaKumar together. The plant was donated by Orchid Trust Garden.

2. **CHIEF GUEST ADDRESS**

Mr. Deepan Bharathi, DGM, ORCHID TRUST, was the chief guest for the program educational needs in future. He inspired the participants on the importance of making choices based on interest. He assured to help the village children for their educational needs in future.

3. **SPECIAL ADDRESS BY RESOURCE PERSON**

Prof. John JeyaKumar of Loyola College was the resource person for the program. With his vast experience in community development he shared about his life experiences with different kinds of community and people. His core message was to make people aware of their socio-economic condition, barriers enhancement and modalities to overcome them for progressive development.

4. **DISTRIBUTION OF NOTEBOOKS**

The resource person and chief guest distributed note books and stationary items to the children. About 14 children were benefited through effect.

5. **‘ONE MARK’ - DOCUMENTARY SCREENING**

A documentary film on the advance of education was screened for parents & Children of the village to instil the value of education.
CONCLUSION

The community organization program was a cumulative effort of the social animators in order to achieve the felt need of the community. The Orchid Trust along with social work trainees raised to initiate and execute the program successfully. The community program ignited spark among the people of the community to seek quality education for their children at any cost. The social work trainees would follow up this zeal and work towards enacting the community to achieve this. The collective efforts of made by various stakeholders of this initiation would pave way for the emancipation of this community.

AROKIARAJ J.

IMPORTANCE OF BREAST FEEDING

On 8th Aug. 2014, in the department of Social Work, Loyola College, Chennai, the students, specializing in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work (Shift I) conducted awareness program on “importance of Breastfeeding”. The program was well organized and conducted by the students under the guidance and help of the department professor Mary Jessi Rani. For the program all the students from shift I (I & II years) were present. Professors and staff members from the department were also present on the occasion.

The M&P students had come with beautiful banners and charts on the importance of Breastfeeding. The hall was decorated with banners and charts which were conveying the beautiful message that mother’s milk is important for the babies. The speaker of the day was Mrs. A. Irudaya Veni Mary who emphasized on the importance of breast feeding. She made us aware that as social workers we need to campaign on promoting breastfeeding. The message was very powerful and full of thoughts on babies’ health.

The program was compered by Mr. Santhosh Kumar, Ms. A. Jenifer, Ms. P. Nancy Kirubha and Ms. Shalini made the presentation of the uniqueness and importance of breast feeding. Ms. Nandhini presented a Tamil Poem on “Mother’s Milk – A priceless gift” written by Mr. Velumani, I-year student. The awareness program helped raise awareness among the students who would take this message to all walks of life.

ANIL DHANWAR
On 12th August, 2014, a guest lecture by Rev. Fr. Vasanth was given to the 1st year student on Fundamental rights in Indian Constitution. First of all he asked the student about what is the meaning of rights. A fundamental right is a charter of rights contained in the Constitution of India. It guarantees civil liberties such that all Indians can lead their lives in peace and harmony as citizens of India. These include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, such as equality before law, freedom of speech and expression, and peaceful assembly, freedom to practice religion, and the right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil right. The Fundamental Rights are defined as basic human freedoms which every Indian citizen has the right to enjoy for a proper and harmonious development of personality. These rights universally apply to all citizens, irrespective of race, place of birth, religion, caste or gender.

There are six fundamental rights recognized by the Indian Constitution. They are:
**Right to equality**
- Equality before law
- Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender or place of birth
- Equality of opportunity in matters of employment

I. **Right to freedom**
- Right to freedom and expression which enable an individual to participate in public activities.
- Freedom to assemble peacefully without any arms
- Freedom to form association or union
- Freedom to move freely throughout the territory of India
- Freedom to reside and settle in any part of the India

II. **Right against exploitation**
- Prohibiting all forms of forced labor and child labor
- Traffic in human beings

III. **Right to freedom of religion,**
- All religion are equal before the state and no religion should be given preference over the other.
- Citizens are free to preach, practice and propagate any religion of their choice
- The objective of the right is to sustain the principle of secularism in India.

IV. **Cultural and Educational rights**
- Citizens has the right to conserve their culture, language or script, and right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

V. **Right to constitutional remedies**
- Empower the citizens to move a court of law in case of any denial of fundamental rights.

Rev Fr. Vasanth made the students to be active and alive through his session. The students actively involved in the session by asking many questions and clarifying the doubts. At the end Fr. Vasanth concluded the session by saying of Dr. Ambedkar “Fundamental rights are soul and heart of Indian constitutions.” One of the students thanked the guest lecturer and the session came to an end.

SATHIYAVANI S.
On 9th Sept. 2014, the students of Loyola College, specializing in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work (Shift I & II), had an observational visit to National Institute for empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD). The students felt that the visit was very much fruitful and full of learning.

NIEPMD was established in the year 2005, on East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, (about 30 km from Chennai Central railway station, Mofussil bus terminus and airport) Under the Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, to serve as a national resource center for empowerment of persons with Multiple Disabilities such as those with two or more disabilities. The Disabilities enumerated as per PWD (1995) Act, are Low Vision, Blindness, Loco motor Disability, Hearing Impairment, Mental Retardation, Mental Illness, Leprosy Cured Persons and as per The National Trust (1999) Act, are Cerebral Palsy and Autism.

Some of the multiple disabilities are:
- Deaf blind (Visual Impairment + Hearing Impairment)
- Visual Impairment + Hearing Impairment + Mental Retardation
- Visual Impairment + Mental Retardation
- Cerebral Palsy + Mental Retardation/ Hearing/ Speech/ Visual problems

**Objectives**

To undertake development of human resources for management, training rehabilitation, education, employment and social development of persons with Multiple Disabilities.
To promote and conduct research in all areas relating to Multiple Disabilities
To develop Trans-disciplinary models and strategies for social rehabilitation and to meet the needs of diverse groups of people with Multiple Disabilities.
To undertake services and outreach programs for the persons with Multiple Disabilities.

**Vision**

The Persons with Multiple Disabilities have equal rights to lead a better quality of life. This may be enabled with committed professionalism, accessible environment, equal opportunities, positive attitudes and appropriate, affordable, acceptable and available technological interventions.
Mission

To provide need based comprehensive rehabilitation through team approach facilitating inclusion, ensuring empowerment of persons with Multiple Disabilities and their families and by substantiating field based research and development of human resources.

Value Statement

Promoting quality of life for persons with Multiple Disabilities through equal participation of clients, families, professionals and community agencies.

Services Provided

The Institute provides assessment and evaluation covering case history, physical and medical examination, intellectual and developmental assessment, special educational assessment, therapeutic needs assessment and vocational assessment. A program plan made for home based training and demonstrations are given to parents for carrying out the skill training or therapy program for home management. They are as follow:

- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Sensory Integration
- Early Intervention Services
- Prosthetics & Orthotics
- Special education
- Psychological Assessments and Interventions
- Speech, Hearing & Communication
- Vocational training
- Vocational Guidance & Counselling
- Deaf blind
- Community based Rehabilitation
- Special Clinics (Psychiatric, Neurology & Ophthalmology)

Family Cottage Services:

To obviate the need for every day commutation by persons with multiple disabilities
To encourage multiply disabled persons from all over the country to avail the services.
To train the clients and educate the parents in a home like atmosphere.

ANIL DHANWAR
The population ratio in India is steadily moving towards a dangerous imbalance with 917 female per 1000 male population. It calls in for serious introspection into the factors that contribute such a tragic state of affairs. Among several factors the predominant and wide spread cause is Female Infanticide. It is the deliberate and intentional killing of female children after their birth.

Female Infanticide is the most shameful social evil and a brutal crime prevalent all over India. The practice has been reported to be existing in the country as early as 1789. Girl child is considered to be a burden and hence families deliberately go in for abortion or killing the child after birth in crude and inhumane method. The practice is found to be more common in all urban dwellings and rural dwellings too. Female Infanticide is the primary gender based violence perpetrated on girls. We need to join hands in raising awareness and instilling the value of girl children. Let us fight together to stop Female Infanticide in the country.

SMRITI LATA EKKA

Jointly Organized by Department of Social Work (Shift-I), Loyola College (Autonomous) & Christian Children’s Fund of Canada - 13th September 2014

Introduction

The department of social work rooted in the reputed academic institution of Loyola College, has been a tool of social transformation for the past fifty years. The Department has an extensive trail of forming social worker professionals who could work towards building a just society for men and women. In this journey the department has achieved many mile stones to earmark its remarkable endeavours for social work and social transformation.

Child Fest: Free from violence

‘CHILD FEST’- 2014 was organized on 13th September in collaboration with Christian Children’s fund of Canada. The participants included children with whom the social work trainees were engaged for a transformational process during their field work training through various NGOs in Chennai. ‘Free from violence’ was the theme of the fest which promoted to free children from all kinds of violence taking place.
against them at all levels and in all places. The innocence of the children makes them vulnerable in towards all forms of violation. The child fest was an attempt to address this need of creating awareness among children by engaging them through purposeful beneficial activity. Around 250 school going children aged six to fifteen years participated in the fest through various NGOs in Chennai.

**Words of Chief Guest**

The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Thomas Jeyaraj, Director of Centre for child rights and development (CCRD). He gave an inspiring and informative speech on child rights and how children behave in today's social context. He emphasized that in India there has been an increase in violation of child's rights and therefore the necessity to ‘Free children from violence’ is need of the hour and this could be made possible when people come together to revamp the diluted rights of children. Mr. Lipi from Christian children’s fund of Canada, Dr. Gladston Xavier, Head of social work department, Fr. Louis Arockiaraj, President of SWASS and Fr. Albert William, Secretary of Loyola College were also present for inauguration of the fest.
**Puppet Show**

Ramesh and Co. from Elshadai Children Ministry performed a puppet show on child rights, good touch and bad touch, discrimination against children in a child friendly, funny and dramatic way for the children which the children not only enjoyed but also took home great messages for life.

**Symbolizing Free from Violence**

To symbolically represent children being freed from all forms of violence the children released chained gas filled balloons into the air. A child has enormous potentials hidden within oneself; however a threatful environment chains them. Empowering them to free themselves from all these chains and enable to fly high to greater heights was the main emphasis of this event.

**Sports, Games and Cultural**

To instill among children the spirit of participation and to bring out their talents, different types of sports and games were conducted for them according to their class and age. The children participated in each and every sport and games and showcased their talents with joy and fun. The sport event was a spectacular sight to see children run, walk, jump and leap with immense energy. The children exhibited their talents not just in sports and games but also performed cultural programs on stage and exposed their inner talents through dancing, singing, playing drama and skit.
Inculcating Values

Loyola College is a forefront institution in emphasizing the value of education in its holistic form. The children were given an opportunity to experience the ambiance of the campus, crave to come back to Loyola for higher studies and develop and grow as a productive member of the society. The department of social work has been keen on ensuring the fulfilment of this objective by conducting the annual child fest.
Concluding Ceremony

The enthusiasm of the children was appreciated by awarding prizes, certificates and gifts to them. No child was left to go home empty handed as everyone received moral books as valuable gifts. The collective efforts of students and staff of the department ensured a meaningful progress in the life of these children.